

Gregory-Aland Lect 2450 (ARM 624)
(a.k.a. Dublin, Ireland, Chester Beatty Library, ARM 624)

***Kurzgefasste Liste* description:**

GA Number: *Lect* 2450
Contents: *le*
Date: IX
Material: parchment
Leaves: 1 (CBL)
Columns: 2
Lines per page: 24
Dimensions: *not listed*
Shelf Number: ARM 624

Corrections to K-Liste description: date (?), identification (?), dimensions

***CSNTM* description:**

GA Number: *Lect* 2450 (?)¹
Contents: John 16.27–17.9
Date: c. XI²

¹ Whether this is a lectionary is problematic; see later discussion.

² Text is hanging from the lines, breathings are rounded, suggesting a later date than IX, as INTF proposes.

The text is strictly hanging from the lines, and *most* breathings are rounded, suggesting a later date than IX, as INTF proposes. The earliest majuscule mentioned by Hatch to have letters hanging from the lines is X (033), 10th century. The lettering looks very similar to *lect* 3 (10th or 11th century), but the letters there are on the line. *Lect* 2 (10th/11th) is similar, and the letters are hanging; but the breathings are usually square. This may suggest that *lect* 2450 is later than *lect* 2 and *lect* 3. *Lect* 183 is 10th/11th acc. to Hatch; Scrivener says 9th and Gregory says 10th. *Lect* 13—letters on the line, breathings square or dots (AD 1000). Thus, as far as Hatch reveals, the earliest majuscule to have letters on the line is GA X (033), 10th century. *Lect* 2 is the next one with similar lettering and hanging letters.

As for minuscule MSS with letters hanging from the line, the earliest example listed by Hatch is 144, 10th century. So also GA 100 (10th), 115 (10th/11th), 481 (10th/11th), 371 (10th/11th), 571 (11th), 83 (11th), 473 (11th), *lect* 59 (11th), 77 (11th), 28 (11th), 506 (11th/12th), 22 (11th/12th), 40 (11th/12th), 98 (11th/12th), 700 (11th/12th). Other minuscules in 10th c. have letters on the line (GA 36, 262, 151). After the 10th century, letters are usually hanging from the line or the line runs through them (but cf. GA 24 [11th]). I only found two other MSS after the 10th century listed by Hatch in which the letters were “sometimes on the line” (372 [XV or XVI], 555 [XV or XVI]).

Material: parchment
Columns: 2
Lines per page: 24³
Shelf Number: CBL ARM 624
Dimensions: 14.2 cm W x 19 cm H

Leaves: 1 (2 pages) + cover & color chart (7) + additional matter (4) = 13 total images

1 leaf, front binding leaf of ARM 624, a Gospels MS in Armenian, dated late 12th century.

Cover & Color Chart: 7

Notable features:

INTF calls this a lectionary, but there is no incipit at John 17.1, as would be expected if it were a synaxarion. There is another leaf of this MS in Jerewan (Matenadaran frag. 15).

Purchased in 1964 by CBL.

19 July 2013: dbw
Photographed by: rpc & jwp

In sum, the hanging letters, coupled with the rounded breathings—two signs of later development, c. 10th century on—and sufficient (though admittedly not the closest) parallels to the writing of *lect* 2450 in X (033), *lect* 2, *lect* 3, and *lect* 183, seem to suggest that *lect* 2450 should be dated 10th/11th. The fact that not a single MS prior to the 10th century (majuscule *or* minuscule) was listed by Hatch with letters hanging from the line seems to be a major indicator of the date of this MS. And the fact that rounded breathings do not occur consistently until the 10th or 11th century also suggests that *lect* 2450 is 10th or 11th. The letters do seem closer to MSS dated IX or X, but other features suggest 11th. If this MS were to be dated to the ninth century, it would seem to be the lone example of a majuscule or minuscule with the letters hanging from the line. Consequently, I am most satisfied with a date of 10th/11th.

³ The leaf has been cut, and is used as a binding leaf in the front of the Armenian Gospels MS, Beatty ARM 624. However, all the lines are present.